voluntary organisations in North-Eastern Region are given financial assistance for undertaking educational as well as vocational training to the disabled.

Backlog of Vacancies for the Physically Handicapped Persons

2200. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any backlog of vacancies for the handicappes persons in the Central Government offices, Central Public Sector undertakings and nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to conduct special Recruitment Drive by the Staff Selection Commission for recruiting these physically handicapped persons; and

(d) if so, the details therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the available information 399 group 'C' posts and 233 group 'D' posts reserved for handicapped persons are lying vacant as on 1-7-1992 in various Ministries|Departments and Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) and (d) Special Recruitment Drives were undertaken in 1987, 1988 and 1990 to fill up the backlog of vacancies reserved for visual and hearing handicapped for group 'C' and 'D' posts. This is a continuous process and Special Recruitment Drives for handicapped persons are conducted from time to time.

Setting up of an Artificial Limb Manufacturing Centre in A.P.

2201. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the demand of aids and appliances for the physically handicapped persons per annum;

(b) whether Government are in a position to meet the demand;

(c) what is the number of companies which the manufacturing these appliances together with the details of appliances being made;

(d) whether there is any proposal to establish an artificial limb manufacturing centre in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) No precise estimate of the aids and appliances is readily available. However in the year 1992-93 the Government of India, under the scheme, provided aids|appliances to 70,000 (approx.), such handicapped persons through the Implementing Agencies.

(b) Yes, at the last years' level.

(c) ALIMCO, Kanpur is the only Public Sector Company under the Administrative Control of this Ministry and following products are manufactured for the handicapped persons :

(i) Lower Extremity Orthotics.

(ii) Upper Extremity Orthotics

(iii) Lower Extremity Prosthetics

(iv) Upper Extremity Prosthetics

(v) Rehabilitation Aids.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Expenditure on Minority Commission

2202. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Willl the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent during the year 1991-92 and 1992-93 on Minority Commission together with the details; and

(b) the number of recommendations sent to different Ministries, Departments and action taken on them during 1991-92 and 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) An expenditure of Rs. 60.59 lakhs and Rs. 53.52 lakhs was incurred on the Minorities Commission during 1991-92 and 1992-93 respectively :—

The details are given below :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Items	1991-92	1992-93
1	2	3	4
1.	Salary	27.25	28.44
2.	Wages	1.71	1.43
3.	Travel Expenses	1.99	3.18
4.	O.T.A.	0.30	0.50
5.	Office Expenses	29.70	29.82
	Total	60.95	63.37

(b) Annual Reports of the Commission for 1991-92 and 1992-93 containing the recommendations have not been received by the Government so far.

Drug Abuse Problem among Labourers

2203. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have studied the problem of drug abuse among the labourers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take to save workers from drug abuse ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) A study on the prevalence of drug abuse among various sections of society, including labourers has been conducted in 33 cities.

(b) The De-addiction, Counselling and After Care Centres functioning in the country provide counselling treatment and rehabilitation services to the drug addicts including the labourers who are addicted to drugs.

2204. [*Transferred to 12th May*, 1993]

Exploitation of Inmates of Orphanges and Remand Homes etc.

2205. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rape cases of girl-children inmates of orphanges, remand homes, protection homes and observation homes etc. in different States during 1992-93; and

(b) whether any effective steps have been taken by the Central Government to protect such institutes against exploitation and abuse, if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Governments/UT Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.